

## Though He Be Not Far From Every One of Us

By David J. Stewart

"...though he be not far from every one of us." -Acts 17:27

What a beautiful Scripture! God is not far from every one of us. Many people feel that God is not present in their life; but the Bible says the Lord is not far from every one of us. It is mankind who walks away from God in rebellion and disbelief; but God is faithful, "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself" (2nd Timothy 2:13). It is God Who keeps us alive, "...he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things" (Acts 17:25). Oh listen friend, God is not far from every one of us.

So often it is easy to look at the difficulties in our life and wonder where God is at. Be comforted, He is not far from every one of us. Jesus plainly stated in John 16:33... "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye SHALL HAVE TRIBULATION: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Though this earthly life is filled with tribulation, hardships and heartbreak; we may rejoice in knowing that we have a home far beyond the sun in Heaven, where the Lord will make everything right... "And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you" (John 16:22).

The key to being happy as a Christian in this miserable life is to focus upon Heaven. This ole sinful world will soon pass away and the lusts thereof (1st John 2:15-17); but, "...every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40). God promised to save any sinner who trusts upon Jesus Christ to be forgiven... "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43).

We are on the winning side! Romans 8:37-39 states, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors THROUGH HIM [Jesus Christ] that loved us. I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, WHICH IS IN JESUS CHRIST our Lord." The Devil's crowd is having a heyday right now—murdering their children by abortion, divorcing and remarrying in adultery, committing homosexuality, gambling, boozing, fornicating, corrupting the Bible, blaspheming God, and living in unrepentant sin—but such wickedness will all cease at death. Then what? ... "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

Every believer ought to think about Heaven when they get discouraged, because this world is not our home. God is not far from every one of us. As a believer, I don't think I could feel at home anywhere in this sin-cursed world. Life is short and will soon be over. Amen! There were one billion people living 150-years ago and THEY'RE ALL DEAD TODAY! Think about that. There are over 6,000,000,000 people on earth right now that will ALL BE DEAD in 150 years! Tragically, most people live as if there's no God, and they will pay dearly for it... "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power" (2nd Thessalonians 1:8,9). Woe unto the unsaved!

As true believers, Jesus said to rejoice because we are saved and have a home in Heaven, "...rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20). Whereas the unbelieving world seeks solace in self-pity, substance abuse and suicide; the believer seeks comfort from the Scriptures... "SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). Thank God for His precious Word!

We are told in 2nd Timothy 3:12... "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus SHALL SUFFER PERSECUTION." This goes 100% contrary to the false Health, Wealth and Prosperity Gospel that we hear Joel Osteen, Creflo Dollar, Benny Hinn, Mike Murdock, Peter Popoff, Don Stewart, Pat Robertson, James Robison and so many other false prophets teaching today. God said we would be persecuted if we live according to the Bible. People will hate us, ostracize us, assassinate our character and say all sorts of horrible things about us... "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake" (Luke 6:22). A young man asked an old preacher, "Sir, how do I give up the world?" The wise preacher replied, "Son, you carry a Bible and the world will give you up!"

I personally have been ostracized in the workplace my entire life, having all manner of evil spoken against me because of my Christian testimony. The Devil's crowd can sense when a genuine child of God is in their midst, and there is a spirit of hatred towards that Christian. I've met innumerable people in my life, who seemed to like me for awhile; but then went their way without saying a word because they became offended. I know what it means to be an outcast, rejected and without friends. The closer you obey the Bible, the less friends you'll have in this sinful life.

The world hates Jesus Christ without a cause... "But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause." What does that phrase mean... "without a cause"? It means that the Devil's crowd hates us simply because we belong to Christ... "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:19). A genuine Christian who loves the Lord and obeys the Bible is as a fish-out-of-water in this sinful world. We will never fit in or be accepted by the unsaved world; and why would we want to be? I have no desire to be accepted by a bunch of sin-loving, self-righteous Christ-rejecters. Yet, as believers we are still human beings with feelings and a desire to be loved and accepted, whether it be at church or in the heathen workplace where we spend nearly half of our conscious life. It is difficult to live the Christen life in a heathen workplace environment where sin is glorified, the Lord is blasphemed and we are often alone in our faith. Thankfully, God is not far from every one of us.

This ole sinful world will soon come to pass, and only what's done for Christ will last. What will the problems and cares of this present life matter 100-years from now? God is looking for a few weak men...

"God stands in no need of our strength or wisdom, but of our ignorance, of our weakness; let us but give these to Him, and He can make use of us in <u>winning souls</u>." — Pastor D.L. Moody

In these last days, when evil men and seductive women are getting worse by the day, God is still on His throne. God is not far from every one of us. Let this truth comfort your heart. The wicked may prosper for a short time; but their tragic end will be woeful judgment and eternal damnation. The Creator of the universe and of our being is not far from every one of us. Jesus is precious!

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—Acts 17:27

Ye Must Be Born Again! | You Need HIS Righteousness!

